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FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5771

INFO RUEHDT/USMISSION USUN 194

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UNCLAS VALLETTA 1493

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TAGS: PLOS, MT

SUBJ: LOSI PACEM IN MARIBUS CONFERENCE

1. AS IN PAST YEARS, PACEM IN MARIBUS DISCUSSED VARIOUS LOS ISSUES AND SOUGHT TO INFLUENCE U.N. LOS CONFERENCE. FOCUS THIS YEAR WAS ON ECONOMIC ZONE AND PROSPECTS FOR ARMS CONTROL IN THE OCEANS.

2. PACEM IN MARIBUS WAS LESS WELL ATTENDED THIS YEAR THAN IN PREVIOUS YEARS. THERE WERE FEW NEW INSIGHTS AND THE GATHERING WAS UNENTHUSIASTIC. MANY PARTICIPANTS FELT THAT THEIR EARLIER ROLE (AS THEY SAW IT) OF LEADING THE THINKING IN THE FIELD WAS OVERTAKEN BY THE REALITIES OF THE U.N. CONFERENCE AND THERE IS LITTLE THEY CAN DO TO AFFECT ITS OUTCOME. SPLITS SEEMED TO DEVELOP EVEN AMONG THE SPONSORS (ELIZABETH MANN BORGESE ET AL) OVER SUCH AN ISSUED AS WHETHER A 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE IS DESIRABLE OR NOT.

3. PRINCIPAL SPEAKERS INCLUDED ARVID PARDO (WHO THOUGHT A 200-MILE ZONE WOULD BE MERELY THE BEGINNING LINE FOR A NEW RACE TO GRAB ADDITIONAL OCEAN SPACE, AND EXTENDING COASTAL STATE AUTHORITY TO ANY PORTION OF THE CONTINENTAL MARGIN BEYOND 200 MILES WOULD BE THE PRIMARY STIMULUS TO THE NEW RACE); DR. J.S. WARIOBA OF TANZANIA (WHO JUSTIFIED 200-MILE ZONE PRIMARILY AS A MEANS WHEREBY THE LDCS COULD KEEP SOME PORTION OF THE WORLD'S OCEANS OUT OF THE GRASP OF THE TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED COUNTRIES, AND ATTACKED LORD RITCHIE-CALER OF U.K. FOR LATTER'S CRITICISM OF THE ZONE AS A STEP BACKWARD FOR THE LDCS); MRS. A MYRDAL OF SWEDEN (WHO ADVOCATED PROHIBITION OF ALL MISSILE TESTING OVER HIGHT SEAS, ALL NATIONAL MILITARY SYSTEMS ATTACHED TO THE SEABED, AND ALL DUMPING OF WEAPONS IN THE OCEANS); STU MCINTYRE OF D/LOS AT STATE DEPT (WHO DESCRIBED U.S. POSITION OF ECONOMIC ZONE AND COUNTERED AS NECESSARY POSITIONS ADVANCED ON OTHER ISSUED BY OHTER PARTICIPANTS WHEN THOSE POSITIONS WERE AT VARIANCE WITH U.S. POLICY, E.G., MYRDAL'S DISARMAMENT COMMENTS); AND AMBASSADOR J. DJALAL OF

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INDONESIA (WHO UNDERScoreD NEED TO RECOGNIZE ARCHIPELAGOS, WELCOMED THE REDUCTION OF THE AREA OF THE HIGH SEAS CAUSED BY THE 200-MILE ZONE SINCE THIS WOULD LIMIT THE GREAT POWERS WHO ARE THE PRIME BENEFICIARIES OF THE HIGH SEAS, AND CRITICIZED MCINTYRE'S MENTION OF NECESSITY OF UNIMPEDED TRANSIT OF INTERNATIONAL STRAITS). LATTER COMMENT OF DJALAL PRODUCED REBUTTAL BY MCINTYRE. FRANK LAQUE (U.S. DEPT OF COMMERCE) AND GOK BLAKE (NSF) MADE USEFUL INTERVENTIONS ON SEABED RESOURCE SUBJECTS.

4. THE PACEM IN MARIBUS SPONSORS ARE ATTEMPTING TO DRAW UP SOME RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE SENT TO THE LOS CONFERENCE. IF THE PAST IS A GUIDE, THEY WILL SUCCEED IN GETTING THEIR DRAFT THOUGH PACEM IN MARIBUS WITH ONLY MINOR MODIFICATIONS AND WITHOUT NOTING THE DISSENTERS IN THE DOCUMENT. THE INFLUENCE OF THE ANNUAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE U.S. SEABED COMMITTEE OR THE U.N. CONFERENCE ON LOS HAS NOT BEEN SUBSTANTIAL IN RECENT YEARS, BUT THIS YEAR THE EFFECT OF THEM IS LIKELY TO BE EVEN LESS THAN USUAL. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS USEFUL TO HAVE USG PARTICIPANTS CONTRIBUTE TO THE PACEM IN MARIBUS DISSCUSSIONS AND TO CLARIFY AND DEFEND U.S. POSITIONS WHEN NEEDED. WIGGINS

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